

REMARKS

The office action of March 10, 2009, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over FR 2833662 to Rovira.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the reference.

Turning now to the reference, applicant points out that Rovira is not prior art to the present application. Rovira has a reference date of June 20, 2003, whereas the present application has a priority date of December 19, 2002. A verified translation of the priority application DE 102 60 076.7 is attached. Thus, Rovira is not prior art to the present application.

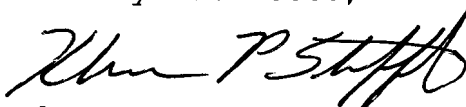
In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

BM-173

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: June 10, 2009

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 10, 2009.

By: 
Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: June 10, 2009